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# Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2213

May 15, 1985

## EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Sec'y of Agriculture John Block announced on May 15 the implementation of a \$2 billion export enhancement program. The program, designed by the USDA, will offer government-owned commodities as bonuses to U.S. exporters to expand sales of U.S. agricultural products in targeted markets. The export plan involves using \$2 billion in Commodity Credit Corporation inventories as bonuses for sales generated in specified world markets through fiscal 1988. According to Block, the plan will help increase U.S. agricultural exports and is designed to help gain some of the markets unfairly taken by foreign competitors.

## USSR GRAIN SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

The highlights of the 1985/86 USSR grain outlook according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture are: A projected crop of 195 million tons, 25 million above the reduced 1984 outturn, but well short of plan; Imports, projected at 37 million tons, are expected to continue heavy, although well below the 53 million ton estimated for 1984/85; Both wheat and coarse grain imports are expected to decline from the year earlier levels with coarse grains down substantially; Domestic use of grain is expected to continue heavy as grain for feed use reaches a new peak.

## CORN STOCKS

Corn stored in all positions on April 1, 1985, is estimated at 3.96 billion bushels, 22 pct. more than April 1, 1984 level of 3.25 billion bushels. Of the total corn on hand, 71 pct. or 2.83 billion bushels was stored on farms. This is 46 pct. more than the April 1 farm stocks a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 1.13 billion bushels are down 14 pct. from last April 1. Indicated disappearance from all storage positions during Jan.-Mar. 1985 totaled 1.90 billion bushels, up 14 pct. from the comparable quarter a year ago.

## ALL WHEAT STOCKS

All wheat stored in all positions on April 1, 1985, totaled 1.67 billion bushels, 5 pct. less than the 1.76 billion bushels stored a year ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farm stocks, at 714 million bushels are down 7 pct. from a year ago. Off-farm stocks amounted to 954 million bushels, off 3 pct. from April 1, 1984. The indicated disappearance from all storage positions during Jan.-Mar. 1985 is 474 million bushels, down 17 pct. from the comparable quarter in 1984.

## NO REENTRY FOR REJECTED MEAT & POULTRY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has made final its 1984 interim rule expressly prohibiting reentry into the U.S. of imported meat and poultry products earlier refused entry by USDA inspectors.

# OILSEEDS SUPPLY/DEMAND

Some major changes in world oilseed and product supply/demand forecasts by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 1984/85 were as follows: The U.S. export forecast for soybeans decreased 1.1 million metric tons (40 million bushels) to 18.2 million tons; The U.S. export forecast for soybean oil decreased 23,000 tons to 748,000 tons; 1984/85 USSR soybean imports were reduced 250,000 tons to 850,000 tons, reducing soybean meal consumption by 165,000 tons; Spain's 1984/85 soybean imports were reduced 550,000 tons to 2.1 million tons.

# EXPORT- IMPORT VOLUME

The export volume of agricultural products through March of the current fiscal year totaled 77.2 million tons, a slight decrease from year-earlier levels, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The volume decreases were most pronounced for wheat and wheat flour, rice, barley, soybean meal, and fresh fruit and fruit juices. U.S. agricultural imports during Oct.-Mar. 1985 were \$10.1 billion, up 9 pct. from the \$9.3 billion imported during the first two quarters of fiscal 1984. Such import patterns between Oct. 1984 and March 1985 resulted in an overall net surplus in agricultural trade of \$8.8 billion, compared with a net surplus of \$11.6 billion during the same period a year earlier.

# EXPORTS DOWN 10% FIRST HALF FY '85

U.S. agricultural exports during the first half of fiscal year 1985 amounted to \$18.9 billion, down \$2 billion and 10 pct. from the \$20.9 billion exported during the same period in fiscal 1984. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the commodity groups contributing substantially to this \$2-billion decline include the grain and feed and oilseeds and products sectors. The declines were largely a reflection of lower unit values for wheat, rice, corn, feeds and fodders, soybeans and soybean meal.

# WORLD COARSE GRAIN

The world 1985/86 output for coarse grains is projected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at slightly above 1984/85. More than one-half of competitor output is from the Southern Hemisphere where harvests still are a year away. Corn may account for most of the expected rise in U.S. ending stocks. Animal numbers imply little expansion in domestic feed use, and exports to the USSR may fall sharply. Prices are projected around loan rates.

# WORLD WHEAT

Global wheat production for 1985/86 is expected to slightly exceed this year's level, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. World trade is projected to fall by 4 million tons in 1985/86. Imports are expected to drop in several major markets. Soviet imports may fall to a level near 1981/82-1983/84. The U.S. market share may drop further. With 1985/86 U.S. exports projected at the lowest level since 1978/79, price prospects are depressed for the new crop and are projected around loan rates. Ending wheat stocks are expected to rise with the potential for a new record, despite small wheat crop projection.

# VEGETABLE OUTLOOK DUE JULY 16

A summary of the Vegetable Outlook and Situation Yearbook, prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be issued on July 16 instead of May 14 as originally scheduled. The delay will allow analysts time to incorporate revised data on production and use of the 1980-84 vegetable crops.

FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

**USDA GRASSHOPPER CONTROL PROGRAM...**Farmers in as many as 15 western states are bracing themselves for one of the worst grasshopper infestations ever recorded in the U.S. Bill Helms with APHIS talks about a new program being implemented by the Department to control this insect. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (381)

**NICARAGUA TRADE EMBARGO...**USDA economist John Link discusses the trade embargo against Nicaragua, and how it affects U.S. agriculture. Vic Powell interviews. (382)

**U.S. WEATHER OUTLOOK...**The current weather outlook in the U.S. could offer a mixed bag for farmers - depending on what area of the country they live in. USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen describes the current weather situation and how it's affecting crops. Jim Johnson interviews. (383)

**CORN ROOTWORM CONTROL...**Kevin Steffey and Allan Felsot, Univ. of Ill., describe the damage caused by corn rootworm beetles and suggest how farmers might do a better job of control. Gary Beaumont interviews. (384)

**FARM SAFETY AND CHILDREN...**In no other industry do young people participate in potentially dangerous work as they do in farming. Bob Aherin, Univ. of Ill., focuses on ways parents of farm children can prevent accidents. Gary Beaumont interviews. (385)

WORLD OILSEEDS

World oilseed production in 1985/86 may show little if any growth from this year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Projected U.S. oilseed output is only marginally higher than this year's crop. U.S. soybean production will account for most of the change in U.S. oilseed output in 1985/86. With foreign oilseed output showing potentially little change after this year's increase, a modest turnaround is forecast for U.S. soybean exports in 1985/86 from this year's reduced level. U.S. soybean stocks are forecast to show a large increase, resulting in further decline in farm prices from this year.

CROP PRODUCTION  
HIGHLIGHTS

The following are some highlights of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's crop production report of May 10, 1985. WINTER WHEAT production is forecast at 1.97 billion bushels, 4 pct. less than the 1984 production of 2.06 billion bushels. CITRUS production is forecast at 10.4 million tons, 3 pct. less than last season. ORANGE production is forecast at 159 million boxes, 6 pct. less than last season. PEACH production in the nine Southern States is forecast at 369 million pounds, down 52 pct. from last year as freezes again limited the crop. Texas is the only southern State that expects increased production.

SOYBEAN  
STOCKS

Soybeans in all positions on April 1, 1985 totaled 898 million bushels, up 14 pct. from April 1 a year ago but 22 pct. below April 1, 1983, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farm stocks are estimated at 488 million bushels, 30 pct. more than April 1, 1984. Off-farm stocks were down 1 pct. from last April 1 and total 410 million bushels. The indicated disappearance for the marketing year, at 1.14 billion bushels, is 4 pct. below the previous year-to-date disappearance of 1.19 billion bushels.



OFF MIKE

The Southcentral NAFB meeting in Little Rock, AR, is history, and a good event it was. John Philpot, Mike Ramsey and Bob Buice (Agri. Radio Net, Little Rock, AR) put together a program that gave the attendees a good flavor of agriculture around Little Rock...and an interesting mix it is, too...from forestry to rice to minnows. About 60 registered for the meeting. The voting members reelected their officers: Kelly Lenz (WIBW, Topeka, KS), National Vice-President; John Burrow (KGNC, Amarillo, TX) and Ray Forcier (KWKH, Shreveport, LA) regional directors. The SC regional meeting next year will be held in conjunction with the NAFB summer meeting in Fort Worth, TX. And speaking of Texas, Jim Stewart (KFYO, Lubbock, TX) brought a bit of flavor from that country to the meeting: 24 dozen of Pedro's Tamales that were right good (as they say in Little Rock). Incidentally, Jim received FFA's Blue and Gold Award from the Lubbock Chapter, the first time the chapter presented the award. Other items we picked up at the meeting: Ken Root has a new assistant at KWCH-TV/KBS, Hutchinson, KS. He is Ted Hall who came from one of the KBS affiliates, KLOE, Goodland, KS. Ken also announced that Russell Pierson and his wife Bernice celebrated their 50th anniversary in mid-May (May 19th, if I remember the date correctly). Russell retired from WKY, Oklahoma City, a few years back and was the 1973 NAFB president ... In other news, Gary Truitt has left Brownfield Network to be farm director for a soon-to-be-established Indiana Agribusiness Network, to be headquartered in Indianapolis, IN. The new network will be part of Network Indiana and will begin operation on satellite the first part of July.

FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1459...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Brenda Curtis travels to Tennessee to visit strip mine sites and to find out what's being done to reclaim that land.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1448...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; World crop production; New farmer opinion poll; The wheat referendum--What happens if farmers reject quotas?; Blame it on the soybean.

CONSUMER TIME #941...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) Clothes with a thermostat; Aspartame pros and cons; Cherry raisins; The "Tobac" machine; Health foods--they're still here!

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, May 22, Export outlook; Thurs, May 23, Eggs, chickens and turkeys report; Fri, May 24, Cattle on feed, Red meat production; Mon (Holiday); Tues, May 28, Outlook for Eastern Europe; Wed, May 29, Farm real estate summary, Crop and weather update, World dairy outlook; Fri, May 31, Agricultural prices report; Mon, June 3, Southeast Asia ag. outlook. Dial the USDA National News Line 202/488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EDT each working day.

  
JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief  
Radio and Television Division